Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 1 wherein the computer program assigns a new reservation to a robot, the robot assigning all or any portion of the [listing] limiting standards to the reservation according to limitations imposed by the standards and issuing a warning message to the reserving entity in the event the reservation is not [ticketed] confirmed.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the computer program checks reservations for expired limiting standards and assigns the reservations to a second robot which checks the reservation to determine if the reservation is [ticketed] confirmed and, if not, either ignores, cancels, queues, or updates the reservation or adds another warning message to the reservation for informing the reserving entity depending upon a second set of limiting standards.

Please rewrite claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for automated firming of reservations made by a reserving entity for services or goods and which are to be [ticketed] confirmed such as by payment for said services or goods prior to delivery of the services or goods, which reservations are listed in a database of reservations, comprising the steps of:

accessing the database of reservations with a computer;

identifying new reservations not previously subjected to firming processes, the new reservations being identified by a computer program;

acquiring and applying a set of limiting standards which are applied to each reservation;

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determining those reservations not yet [ticketed] confirmed; and,

informing the reserving entity in accordance with the set of limiting standards of the need to [ticket] confirm the reservation before expiration of time limitations established by the set of limiting standards, all steps of the method being accomplished by a computer program.

Please rewrite claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) A system for firming flights in a central reservations system wherein the system includes a computer and at least one computer program for providing instructions to the computer, the central reservations system listing flight reservations issued by at least one reserving entity, the reservations being subject to ticketing according to a set of ticketing time limit rules, comprising:

first means for obtaining reservations from the central reservations system and for obtaining the rules to be applied to the reservations;

second means for identifying new reservations not previously subjected to flight firming and for assigning the new reservations for flight firming processes;

third means accepting at least one of the new reservations for assigning one or more rules of the ticketing time limit rules to the reservation and for adding a warning message to the reservation in the event the reservation is not ticketed; and,

fourth means for informing the reserving entity of the need to ticket the reservation subject to a certain set of conditions.

Clean copies of amended claims 1, 4, 5 and 7 are enclosed.

Please add the following claims:

-- 17. The method of claim 1 wherein confirming of a reservation comprises the step of issuing a ticket for the services or goods.

18. The system of claim 7 and further comprising fifth means for holding a database of reservations within the computer.

19. A system for firming of reservations in a database of reservations wherein the system includes a computer and at least one computer program for providing instructions to the computer, the database of reservations listing reservations issued by at least one reserving entity, the reservations being subject to confirmation according to a set of time limit rules, comprising:

first means for accessing the database of reservations;

second means for obtaining reservations from the database and for obtaining the rules to be applied to the reservations;

third means for identifying new reservations not previously subject to firming and for assigning the new reservations for firming processes;

fourth means for accepting at least one of the new reservations for assigning one or more rules of the time limit rules to the reservations and for adding a warning message to the reservation in the event the reservation is not confirmed; and,

fifth means for informing the reserving entity of the need to confirm the reservations subject to a certain set of conditions.

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20. The system of claim 19 wherein the third means check old reservations for expired time limit rules and assign the old reservations to a further firming process, the system further comprising:

sixth means for checking the old reservations to determine whether the reservations have been confirmed.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein, in the event that a given reservation is not confirmed, the sixth means according to a further set of rules either ignores, cancels, cues or updates the reservation or adds another warning message to the reservation for transmittal to the reserving entity.

22. The system of claim 20 and further comprising seventh means for informing the reserving entity of the need to confirm the reservation before expiration of time limitations imposed by the time limit rules.

23. The system of claim 19 and further comprising means for checking the reservation for suspicious names.

24. The system of claim 19 wherein the system is remote from the database of reservations. --